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P R E F A C E.

IN the present volume will be found a record of the proceedings of the Society at its stated meetings, from June, 1886, to October, 1887, inclusive. Among the noteworthy papers which have been presented may be mentioned especially the report of a committee thoroughly exposing the audacious imposture which had deceived many prominent persons in other cities, and by which, with the aid of literary forgeries, it was sought to palm off upon the American people a fictitious likeness of Washington, and to displace the familiar one by Stuart. In consequence of this report, which was widely circulated, the attempt failed, and the author returned ignominiously to England. The reader will also find here the discussion and action of the Society with reference to the proposed erection by the State of a monument in honor of those who were killed in the affray which was subsequently known as the "Boston Massacre."

There are nine Memoirs included in this book, — those of the Hon. JOHN WELLES and the Rev. S. K. LOTHROP, D.D., by Dr. Peabody; that of the Hon. JOHN J. BABSON, by Mr. Smith; of the Hon. JAMES M. ROB-

BINS, by Mr. Wolcott; of CHARLES C. PERKINS, by Dr. Eliot; of the Hon. FRANCIS E. PARKER, by Mr. Bangs; of the Rev. NICHOLAS HOPPIN, D.D., by Dr. Oliver; of LUCIUS M. SARGENT, by Mr. Lowell; and that of the Hon. ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK, by Judge Devens.

The portraits which accompany the Memoirs are, in every instance, gifts to the Society. Those of Dr. Lothrop, Mr. Perkins, and Governor Bullock have been kindly contributed by their families; and that of Mr. Parker has been furnished by personal friends.¹

It is a gratifying fact that only one Resident Member has died since the issue of the last volume, — the Hon. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, whose public career and services are fitly commemorated in these pages.

One of the most interesting illustrations in this volume is the representation of the Group of Members, which stands as the frontispiece. It was originally taken on June 10, 1869, when, by invitation of the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, the Society met at his house in Brookline; and before the meeting was called to order, the members gathered on the steps and lawn in front of the house, and were photographed by J. W. Black, of Boston. Forty-six are depicted here; and of this number fifteen now survive, being less than one third of the company that were assembled. The following are the names of the gentlemen portrayed in the picture, beginning with the President and those standing nearest to him on either side, and ranging in lines from the centre to the left and right: —

¹ The same gentlemen have privately printed a separate Memorial, edited by Mr. R. C. Winthrop, Jr., which contains the tributes paid to Mr. Parker in this Society, and much additional matter; and it is there stated that Harvard College, Phillips Exeter Academy, and the Boston Provident Association have received more than one hundred and ten thousand dollars each, under Mr. Parker's will, and that these bequests are unrestricted.

ROBERT C. WINTHROP, *President.*

JOHN C. GRAY.
JACOB BIGELOW.
JAMES WALKER.
FRANCIS PARKMAN.
CHARLES DEANE.
WILLIAM G. BROOKS.

JOHN H. CLIFFORD.
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL.
EMORY WASHBURN.
NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF.
LUCIUS R. PAIGE.
CHARLES C. SMITH.
ROBERT C. WATERSTON.

ROBERT M. MASON.
WILLIAM S. BARTLET.
WILLIAMS LATHAM.
HENRY G. DENNY.

BENJAMIN F. THOMAS.
FREDERIC H. HEDGE.
JEFFRIES WYMAN.
WILLIAM NEWELL.

THEOPHILUS PARSONS.
THOMAS ASPINWALL.
SAMUEL K. LOTHROP.
JOEL PARKER.
JAMES M. ROBBINS.

STEPHEN SALISBURY.
RICHARD FROTHINGHAM.
ELLIS AMES.

SAMUEL F. HAVEN.
GEORGE B. EMERSON.
NICHOLAS HOPPIN.

HENRY W. TORREY.
JOHN L. SIBLEY.
GEORGE E. ELLIS.
LORENZO SABINE.
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.
CHANDLER ROBBINS.
FRANCIS BOWEN.

SAMUEL A. GREEN.
JOHN J. BABSON.
ERASTUS B. BIGELOW.
GEORGE T. DAVIS.
SETH AMES.
THOMAS C. AMORY.

An earlier group, consisting of twenty-six members, and comprising some of the most distinguished men in the Commonwealth, was taken on May 17, 1855, and is prefixed to the second volume of Proceedings. Mr. Winthrop, Dr. Ellis, and Dr. Deane are the only ones of the living whose faces appear in both heliotypes.

EDWARD J. YOUNG.

CAMBRIDGE, February 1, 1888.